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Flanagan or McMillan - Int. 5634

INTERIOR REPORTS ADDITIONAL COAST GUARD HELP ON BERING SEA PATROL

At the request of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Coast Guard has agreed to expand its Alaskan patrol. The Coast Guard informed the Bureau that the cutters WINONA (Port Angeles, Wash.), WACHUSETT, and KLAMATH (both stationed in Seattle, Wash.), assisted by Coast Guard planes, will enforce international and United States fisheries regulations. The areas to be covered are the eastern half of the Bering Sea, Bristol Bay, the area immediately south of the Aleutian Islands, and the Gulf of Alaska.

The patrol will be in addition to the annual Bering Sea Patrol, which has been carried out by the Coast Guard since 1867. This year's Bering Sea Patrol will be conducted by the Coast Guard icebreakers NORTHWIND (Seattle, Wash.) and STORIS (Kodiak, Alaska).

The expanded Alaskan Patrol by the Coast Guard will permit the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries vessel JOHN R. MANNING (Juneau, Alaska) to increase its patrol efforts for protecting the halibut fisheries of the northern Pacific Ocean.

The increased enforcement activities result from numerous complaints received by the Bureau of alleged violations relative to the taking of salmon, halibut, whales, fur seals, and, in some instances, the use of illegal equipment in the areas to be patrolled.

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